

REMARKS

Claims 1,2 and 4-11 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for new claim 7-9 is found in original claims 4-6. Support for new claims 10 and 11 is found in the examples summarized in Table 1 at page 11 of the specification. In addition, page 1 of the specification has been amended so as to correct some minor informalities and insert some minor grammatical changes.

Allowable Claims

The Office Action of September 5, 2003, states that the claims of the present application would be placed into condition for allowance if claim 3 was incorporated into claim 1. Claim 3 has now been incorporated into claim 1. Additionally, the other pending claims have been amended correspondingly such that all of these claims have also been placed into allowable condition. Also, the objections and rejections below have been overcome for the reasons stated below.

Removal of Claim Objections and Issues Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-6 have been objected to because of the informalities summarized in item (1) at the top of page 2 of the Office Action

dated September 5, 2003. Additionally, claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for the reasons stated at item (3) in the Office Action. These objections and rejections have been removed as claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been amended in accordance with the suggestions stated in the Office Action. The language of claim 3 has been corrected in accordance with the stated suggestion, and this language incorporated into amended claim 1. Consequently, it is requested that the above-noted objections and rejections be withdrawn.

Removal of Issues Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajikawa '680 (USP 5,031,680).

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajikawa '680.

Claims 4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajikawa '680 in view of EP '929 (European Patent Application No. 475929).

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '006 (Japanese Patent Application 3-271006) in view of Kajikawa '680.

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The bases for all of the above-noted rejections have been removed upon the incorporation of claim 3 into claim 1. Consequently, it is requested that all of these rejections be withdrawn.

It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed condition for allowance.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to March 5, 2001, in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$950.00 is enclosed herewith.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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